IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 4-7, 18, and 30-33. The following is a complete

listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication apparatus comprising:

a)   a communication unit having different transfer rates, an isochronous

transfer mode, and an asynchronous transfer mode, and adapted to transmit a predetermined

packet to destinations by the asynchronous transfer mode using at least one of the different

transfer rates until responses from all of the destinations are received; and

b)   a control unit adapted to ~~discriminate~~ determine a maximum transfer

rate between the apparatus and the destinations, based on a response transmitted from each of the

destinations.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the

communication unit retransmits the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower than [[the]] a

previous transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 5 (currently amended):   An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the

communication unit transmits data to the destinations at the maximum transfer rate after

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~~discriminating~~ determining the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim [[5]] 1, wherein the communication unit packetizes [[the]] data into at least one packet and broadcasts each packet to the destinations.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim [[6]] 1, wherein an amount of data packetized in [[each]] a packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

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Claims 8 and 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claims 11 and 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destinations.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

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the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the apparatus.

Claim 15 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID that indicates a logical connection relationship between the apparatus and the destinations.

Claims 16 and 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for a communication apparatus that includes a communication unit having different transfer rates, an isochronous transfer mode, and an asynchronous transfer mode, comprising the steps of:

    a)   transmitting a predetermined packet to destinations by the asynchronous transfer mode using at least one of the different transfer rates until responses from all of the destinations are received; and

    b)   ~~discriminating~~ determining a maximum transfer rate between the apparatus and the destinations, based on a response transmitted from each of the destinations.

Claims 19-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of retransmitting the ~~previous~~ predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower

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~~that the predetermined~~ <u>than a previous</u> transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting data to the destinations at the maximum transfer rate after ~~discriminating~~ <u>determining</u> the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method according to Claim [[31]] <u>18</u>, wherein the transmitting step includes packetizing [[the]] data into at least one packet and broadcasting each packet to the destinations.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A method according to Claim [[32]] <u>18</u>, wherein an amount of data packetized in [[each]] <u>a</u> packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet is transmitted in a communication that conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destinations.

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Claim 36 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the apparatus.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID indicating a logical connection relationship between the apparatus and the destinations.

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